

# POINT MOLATE FOCUS



NEWS OF THE NFD POINT MOLATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAMS

ISSUE 18, SPRING 2005

## Record of Decision to be Signed for Site 1, Waste Disposal Area

**A** formal agreement is expected to be signed this summer by the Navy and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board that documents the environmental investigation and cleanup process at Installation Restoration Program Site 1, Waste Disposal Area, at former NFD Point Molate. The Record of Decision (ROD) is a document signifying that the Navy, regulatory agency, and public have decided and agreed on the final environmental remedy for the site.

Site 1 is a former 1-acre waste disposal area that was used for waste disposal from the 1950s until 1979. Plans for a landfill cover, landfill gas venting system, and oil/water separator (a device for separating out oily liquid from groundwater around the landfill) were developed by the Navy and approved by the Regional Board and the public. Construction of the soil cover, venting system, and oil/water separator were completed in 2002. In 2003, revegetation of Site 1 using a special mix of native plant seeds, developed in consul-



View of Site 1, the grassy area in the center of the photo, looking west. This photo was taken in January 2005.

U.S. Navy photo

tation with biologists and the local community, was completed.

A Proposed Plan for completing site work was presented in July 2004 and a public meeting was held in August 2004 to discuss the Proposed Plan and hear community comments. The Proposed Plan presented three alternatives for the final site remedy, of which Alternative 3, the most protective of human health and the environment, was recommended. Following approval of the Proposed Plan, a ROD is being final-

ized to respond to public comments and formally document agreement on Alternative 3 as the final remedy.

The Spring and Summer 2001 and Winter 2002 issues of the Point Molate Focus presented information on the history of Site 1. These issues are available on the Navy's web site at <http://www.efdswww.navy.mil/environmental/PointMolate.htm> or at the Navy's Information Repository for Point Molate located in the Richmond Public Library (see back page for library information).

## Fuel Removed Using MPE Technology

**D**uring the winter of 2005, the Navy used a technology called "multi-phase extraction" (MPE) to remove free product (fuel floating on top of groundwater) at several Point Molate hillside tank sites. MPE is the treatment method recommended in the Point Molate Corrective Action Plan prepared in 2002. The MPE method was tested at Tank 6 and Tank 18 at Point Molate in 2001 and found to be a feasible method for product removal for the base.

Multi-phase extraction follows this process:

**Pump:** A submersible pump is installed in the groundwater extraction well (most wells at the hillside tank sites are less than 30 feet deep). The pump is installed complete with a riser (discharge) pipe, a conveyance pipe, and an electrical cable.

**Vacuum:** A vacuum system, including a positive-displacement blower and conveyance hoses, is connected to the top of the extraction well casing. This system creates a vacuum in the well, thereby increasing the below-ground pressure for subsurface



Performing multi-phase extraction at a Point Molate underground storage tank.



liquids (groundwater and free product) flowing to the well.

**Extract:** Both systems are simultaneously operated to provide vacuum-enhanced extraction of free product and groundwater.

**Collect:** Liquids are collected in temporary holding tank and transported off site to a licensed recycling facility.

**Monitor:** The system is periodically shut down to monitor levels of free product.

## Streamlining the Base Realignment and Closure Office

In an effort to improve the base closure process for closed Navy and Marine Corps facilities, the Navy has moved the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Operations Department from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command to work directly for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment. This move will ensure the highest

level of Navy involvement in all areas of BRAC operations and streamline Navy organization involved in the process. The new office is known as the BRAC Program Management Office (PMO), and the San Diego office responsible for Point Molate is BRAC PMO West. The organizational change went into effect on October 1, 2004.

## RAB Member Recognition – Great Job!

At the April 6, 2005 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting, the Navy awarded Certificates of Appreciation to RAB members for their contributions over the years. Some RAB members have participated since the very first RAB meeting was held in August 1996, while others have joined more recently, but all have volunteered their time and effort collaborating with the Navy on environmental cleanup.

The RAB comprises local community members and state agency and Navy personnel who meet regularly to discuss environmental investigation and cleanup efforts at the former Navy base.

The Navy appreciates all the efforts of the RAB and community over the years. Thank you for your participation, your caring, and your involvement.



U.S. Navy photo

*Members of the Point Molate Restoration Advisory Board, state and local agencies, and Navy personnel at the April RAB meeting.*

### DID YOU KNOW?



You can read more about the Navy's environmental program on the internet! The Navy's Southwest Division Environmental Web Page address is <http://www.efds.w.navy.mil/environmental/envhome.htm>

### Current RAB Members Spring 2005

**Shirley Butt**  
**Henry Clark**  
**Don Delcollo**  
**Lucretia Edwards**  
**Sarah Eeles**  
**Gaye Eisenlord**  
**Richard Frisbie**  
**Sharon Fuller**  
**Don Gosney**  
**Jeff Inglis**  
**Arnie Kasendorf**  
**Jil Kiernan**  
**Myron King**  
**Kent Kitchingman**  
**Stephen Linsley**  
**Sharon Maves**  
**Tony Mendicino**  
**Margaret Morkowski**  
**Nagaraja Rao**  
**Jean Siri**  
**Eileen Whitty**

## You Are Invited to Attend

The Point  
 Molate Restoration  
 Advisory Board  
 (RAB) provides a  
 forum for community mem-  
 bers, the Navy, and state and  
 federal regulatory agencies to  
 discuss cleanup issues and  
 approaches. The RAB current-  
 ly meets at 7:00 p.m. on the  
 first Wednesday of every third  
 month (quarterly) at 325 Civic  
 Center Plaza, Richmond City  
 Library – Madeline F.  
 Whittlesey Community Room.  
 The meetings are open to the  
 public, and the RAB and the  
 Navy encourages you to attend.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POINT MOLATE

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 RAB Community Co-Chair  
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### INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Environmental cleanup site-related documents are available for public review at:

**Richmond Redevelopment Agency**  
 (510) 307-8140  
 1401 Marina Way South  
 Richmond, CA 94804  
 (enter through west/back side of  
 building)  
 Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Contact: Craig Murray

**Richmond Public Library**  
 (510) 620-6561  
 325 Civic Center Plaza  
 Richmond, CA 94804  
 Hours: M & Tu 3 p.m.-7 p.m.  
 W & Th 2 p.m.-6 p.m.  
 F & Sat 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

## Point Molate Focus

Return requested

Brown and Caldwell  
 9665 Chesapeake Drive, Ste. 201  
 San Diego, CA 92123

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